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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WOKING

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Annual REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1951

The Urban District Council of Woking

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:
N. HOOD LINZEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer:
A. G. DAVIES, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:
H. W. MONKS, M.S.I.A.
J. D. SMITH, M.S.I.A.
A. E. CANOVAN, M.S.I.A.

Clerical Staff:
R. A. GREEN
MISS P. M. JONES
MISS M. COTTINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health for 1951

Public Health Department,
Council Offices, Guildford Road, Woking.
1st September, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS GRAVES AND GENTLEMEN,

I wish to present my 25th Annual Report of Woking for the year 1951. The report has been prepared on the lines of that for 1950 in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

The figure of population given by the Registrar General is 49,310, an increase of 660 over the previous year, and on this figure all the vital statistics are based.

The year in question shows a rise in the number of infectious diseases notified, viz. 842 as against 722 in 1950, due mainly to an increase in measles and an outbreak of dysentery at one of the Day Nurseries in the area. It will be noted that there was one case of poliomyelitis as compared with nine in 1950 and that no case of food poisoning was recorded.

The number of live births was 689 giving a birth rate of 14·25 as compared with 673 live births and a birth rate of 14·11 in 1950.

Deaths amounted to 501 with a rate of 9·65 as compared with 524 and a death rate of 10·23 in 1950.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1951 was 22·99 as compared with 22·29 for the previous year. The natural increment is 188.

The total number of houses completed in 1951 was 273, including 142 erected by the Local Authority, 15 by private enterprise, 8 by other Authorities, 5 flats over shops and 103 on Sheerwater Estate. In addition 12 existing houses were converted providing 42 new family units.

Two new Acts came into force during 1951, these being:

(1) The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, and

(2) The Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Following on the Industrial Court's Award which was published in the latter part of 1950 the Council altered the amount of time of my attendance as the Medical Officer of Health to three notional half-days a week. This is considerably below the amount of time that I attended Council work during the past fifteen years and in my opinion it is quite inadequate to carry out the work attached to the Medical Officer of Health's post in Woking.

Cleansing Services

Details of refuse collection, refuse disposal, salvage and cesspool emptying will be found in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I am indebted once more to all members of the staff for maintaining a high standard of efficiency in carrying out the varied functions of the Department.

N. HOOD LINZEE,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres), 15,712.

Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1951, 49,310.

Year	Houses	Population	Average No. per House
1891	1,584	9,776	6·2
1901	2,807	16,222	5·8
1911	4,072	24,808	6·0
1921	5,078	26,430	5·8
1931	6,853	29,950	4·4
1941	10,743	47,770	4·4
1951	11,949	49,310	4·1

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to rate books, 11,949.

Rateable Value, £482,180.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,916.

Social Conditions

Woking is a residential town situated within 25 miles of London and consequently a very high proportion of the residents find employment in London.

A total of 1,947 acres comprises common and open spaces and there are many recreation grounds to provide open air facilities for the children and adults. In the 34-acre Woking Park there is in addition to normal activities an open-air swimming pool.

The provision of eight slipper baths during 1949 in a building conveniently situated for the purpose proved a welcome addition to the amenities of the town and has been well patronised. During the year 4,897 men and 1,205 women took advantage of the available facilities.

Unemployment amongst Woking residents was much lower than during 1950.

Classification	Dec. 31st 1947	Dec. 31st 1948	Dec. 31st 1949	Dec. 31st 1950	Dec. 31st 1951
Male Adults ..	121	123	96	147	39
Male Juveniles ..	7	17	13	10	2
Female Adults ..	43	60	44	55	40
Female Juveniles ..	6	16	13	34	2
Totals	177	216	166	246	83

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1951

Live Births:—	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	648	335	313
Illegitimate	41	22	19
Birth Rate, 14·25			
Still-births	7	4	3
Rate per 1,000 total births, 10·07			
Deaths	501	229	272
Death Rate, 9·65			

The crude birth and death rates for Woking are, strictly speaking, not comparable with the figures for England and Wales. In order to arrive at correct figures the Registrar General has introduced comparability factors. These factors for Woking are 1·02 and ·95 for births and deaths respectively, and the above figures have been adjusted accordingly.

Deaths from puerperal causes:—	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—
Death rate of infants under one year of age:—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	22·99
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	23·15
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	24·39
Deaths from malignant neoplasms (all ages)	83
Deaths from measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

Births

The following table shows the number of live births and the birth rate over the past 10 years.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England and Wales
1942	855	18·79	15·8
1943	812	18·58	16·5
1944	807	18·76	17·6
1945	735	17·49	16·1
1946	887	20·59	19·1
1947	865	19·61	20·5
1948	727	15·83	17·9
1949	687	14·89	16·7
1950	673	14·11	15·8
1951	689	14·25	15·5

It is of interest to note that the actual number of births which occurred in the Woking U.D. during 1951 was 1,338, although only 689 were credited to Woking. The remainder (being born to women not normally resident in Woking) were transferred to other Districts.

The birth rate has exceeded the death rate for the past 10 years, the natural increment for this year being 188.

The statistics supplied by the Registrar General during 1951 show that the total number of registered live births allocated to Woking was 689—357 males and 332 females, the birth rate being 14·25 per 1,000 of the population. Of the total number of births 648 were legitimate and 41 (5·95 per cent) illegitimate.

In addition there were 7 still births, 4 male and 3 female.

Causes of Death during 1951	Male	Female
All causes	229	272
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	1
Syphilitic disease	2	—
Whooping cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	23	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	26	51
Coronary disease, angina	38	36
Hypertension with heart disease	9	15
Other heart disease	34	52
Other circulatory diseases	6	4
Influenza	4	4
Pneumonia	11	10
Bronchitis	12	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Congenital malformations	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	28
Motor vehicle accidents	5	2
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide	1	3

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 501—229 males and 272 females, equal to a death rate of 9·65 per thousand of the estimated population.

The deaths occurring outside the district of people really belonging to Woking were 134.

The following deaths occurred in Institutions outside the Woking district of people usually resident in Woking:

St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford	2
St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey	63
Sanatoria	5
London Hospitals	6
Other Hospitals and Institutions	23

There were 235 deaths within this district of persons not usually resident in Woking, 98 males and 137 females. Of these 80 males and 106 females died at Brookwood Mental Hospital.

Death Rate for the Past Ten Years

Year	Woking Urban District	England and Wales
1942	10·81	11·6
1943	10·05	12·1
1944	10·86	11·6
1945	10·80	11·4
1946	10·63	11·5
1947	10·47	12·0
1948	10·58	10·8
1949	9·73	11·7
1950	10·23	11·6
1951	9·65	12·5

The principal causes of death, excluding those from zymotic diseases, are:—

Malignant neoplasms	83	
Heart disease	184	271
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	77	
Other circulatory diseases	10	
Pneumonia	21	42
Bronchitis	19	
Other respiratory diseases	2	

Malignant Neoplasms

Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms were responsible for 83 deaths or 16·56 per cent of total deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms

Year	Total Deaths	Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms	Percentage
1942	492	81	16·46
1943	439	81	18·45
1944	467	77	16·49
1945	454	67	14·76
1946	458	68	14·85
1947	462	62	13·42
1948	486	93	19·14
1949	488	77	15·77
1950	524	100	19·08
1951	501	83	16·56

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation

There were 271 deaths due to Heart and Circulation. This figure represents 54·09 per cent of the whole deaths.

Deaths from Heart Disease

Year	Total Deaths	Heart Disease Deaths	Percentage
1942	492	186	37·80
1943	439	155	35·31
1944	467	172	35·03
1945	454	174	38·33
1946	458	211	46·07
1947	462	205	44·37
1948	486	230	47·32
1949	488	237	48·56
1950	524	239	45·61
1951	501	271	54·09

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Respiratory Diseases

There were 21 deaths due to Pneumonia, 19 to Bronchitis, and 2 to other respiratory diseases. This gives a total of 42 or 8·38 per cent of total deaths.

Year	Total Deaths	Bronchitis, etc., Deaths	Percentage
1942	492	47	9·55
1943	439	51	11·62
1944	467	54	11·56
1945	454	59	12·99
1946	458	47	10·26
1947	462	57	12·34
1948	486	40	8·23
1949	488	42	8·61
1950	524	53	10·11
1951	501	42	8·38

Deaths due to Violence

The figures given below indicate the manner in which Woking residents met their deaths from violence.

Road Traffic deaths	7
Drowning	2
Other causes	3

In addition to the above there were 4 suicides.

Infantile Mortality

There were 16 infant deaths during the year (including transferable deaths) giving an Infant Mortality rate of 22·99 per 1,000 live births. The Infantile Death rate for illegitimate children in Woking was 24·39 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

Infant Mortality Rate for the Past Ten Years

Year	Deaths Under 1 year	Infant Mortality Rate
1942	34	39·76
1943	30	36·95
1944	35	43·37
1945	23	31·29
1946	24	27·06
1947	26	30·06
1948	19	26·13
1949	17	24·74
1950	15	22·29
1951	16	22·99

Year	No. of Deaths under 1 year	No. of Deaths under 2 years due to Diarrhoea and Enteritis	No. of live Births
1942	34	2	855
1943	30	—	812
1944	35	4	807
1945	23	1	735
1946	24	—	887
1947	26	4	865
1948	19	1	727
1949	17	—	687
1950	15	—	673
1951	16	—	689

The following tables show the causes of death and ages at death of infants under 1 year.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1–2 weeks	2–3 weeks	3–4 weeks	Total No. under 1 month
Prematurity	8	—	—	—	8
Atelectasis	3	—	—	—	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1

Cause of Death	1–3 months	4–6 months	7–9 months	10–12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital Heart Disease	—	—	1	—	1
Suppurative Bronchitis ..	1	—	—	—	1
Carbon Monoxide .. Poisoning (accidental)	—	—	—	1	1

Year 1951

	Rate per 1,000 of population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population									Rate per 1,000 live births	
													Diarrhoea
	Live births	Still births	All causes	Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioenceph.	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Infants under 1 year	Infants under 2 years
England and Wales ..	15·5	0·36	12·5	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·46	0·61	0·31	0·00	0·38	29·6	1·4
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	17·3	0·45	13·4	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·65	0·37	0·01	0·00	0·36	33·9	1·6
148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	16·7	0·38	12·5	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·63	0·31	0·01	0·00	0·38	27·6	1·0
London Administrative County	17·8	0·37	13·1	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·61	0·38	0·01	0·00	0·23	26·4	0·7
WOKING URBAN DISTRICT (Population 49,310) ..	14·23	0·14	9·65	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·43	0·10	0·00	0·00	0·16	22·99	0·00

The Vital Statistics for Woking as shown above compare very favourably with those for England and Wales and other Smaller Towns.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(*a*) Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) in the ordinary course of events is sent to various available laboratories for examination.

Samples of milk, water, and ice-cream for bacteriological examination are sent to The Public Health Laboratories, Epsom.

Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London.

	1951	1950*
Number of swabs examined for diphtheria . .	—	2
Number of swabs examined for scarlet fever . .	25	1
Number of swabs examined for miscellaneous	23	—

* A complete record was not obtainable for 1950.

Number of samples of milk taken for analysis	124	134
Number of samples of ice cream taken for analysis	101	83
Number of samples of water taken for analysis	58	86

(*b*) Ambulance Facilities

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ambulance Service is administered by the Surrey County Council.

Ambulances are supplied from:—

Sharrard House, Heathside Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 3040), which is operated directly by the County Council.

The following additional facilities are still available:—

(*a*) British Red Cross Society, Ambulance Station, Boundary Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 2369), for accident and removal of cases to and from hospitals.

(*b*) Isolation Hospital, Ottershaw (Tel. Ottershaw 327), used for removal of cases of infectious disease to and from the hospital.

(*c*) Nursing in the Home

County Council Health Visitors undertake home visits required under the various schemes of the Surrey County Council, including Ante-Natal and Post-Natal supervision.

District Nurses who are affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and the Surrey County Nursing Association, are provided by the Woking District Nursing Association in the parts of the Urban District known as Woking, Old Woking, Horsell, Sutton Green, Mayford Green and Anthony's. During 1951 the number of cases attended was 893 (12,091 visits).

(*d*) Hospitals

There have been no changes or developments with regard to the hospital facilities in the district. They are as follows:—

Woking and District Victoria Hospital.

Clinic for the treatment of Tuberculosis at Woking Dispensary, Clarence Avenue, Woking.

The Clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases situated at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and Woking Victoria Hospital.

Mental cases are received at the Mental Hospital, Brookwood.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No cases were reported to the Department during the year, and no action was deemed necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

Ottershaw Isolation Hospital

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during 1951:—

Scarlet Fever	12 cases
Erysipelas	4 „
Measles	23 „
Mumps	7 „
Whooping Cough	3 „
Sonne Dysentery	9 „
Poliomyelitis	1 „
Chicken Pox	15 „
Gastro-enteritis	4 „
Other Diseases	15 „
Total	93 cases

MATERNITY

Ante-natal and Post-natal Welfare

The excellent Maternity Home in Heathside Road, continued its invaluable service. 54 beds are kept, and during 1951, 1,295 patients were admitted as compared with 1,301 in 1950. 566 patients were admitted from Woking Urban District. Of the total, 463 were delivered by midwives, and 671 by doctors, the average duration of stay being 12·17 days. 254 operations were carried out. 36 Puerperal Pyrexia cases occurred, 20 being in persons admitted from Woking.

Midwives.—The Home is an approved training school for midwives, and 44 nurses were trained and passed the Examinations of the Central Midwives' Board during the year. 2 midwives serve the district and attended 147 cases. The number of visits made totalled 3,764.

Clinics.—Ante-natal clinics are held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings and afternoons. Post-natal clinics are held every Monday morning. County Council clinics are held every Wednesday and Friday morning and on the morning and afternoon of the 2nd Monday of each month. Baby clinics are held every Monday and Friday afternoon. Fertility clinics are held every Wednesday morning.

Attendances:—

Ante-natal Clinic	6,242
Baby Clinic	2,834
For examination by Specialist ..	498

OTHER.—The Woking and District Victoria Hospital admitted 1,850 in-patients. Other attendances were as follows:—

Number of Out-patient attendances ..	14,275
Casualty attendances	13,974
Physiotherapy attendances	39,266
Number of X-ray cases	9,070
and "A.P. Screenings"	2,373

WATER SUPPLY

As described in previous Reports, the water is supplied by the Woking Water Company from its stations at Chertsey, West Horsley, West Clandon, and a supply in bulk by statute from the Guildford Corporation. The West Surrey Water Company supplies the Byfleet area.

The Woking Water Company's mains were extended 4,078 yards in the Urban District during 1951, and those of the West Surrey Water Co. by 3,920 yards on the Sheerwater Estate and by 140 yards in Woodham Lane.

With few exceptions water is laid on to the interior of the houses.

10 samples of Company water were taken and all were found to be satisfactory both bacteriologically and chemically.

Wells.—Twenty-six houses are still dependent on shallow wells, numbering 21, for their water supply. Samples of these waters are taken regularly to check their purity. Of the total, 20 houses served by 13 wells could be connected to the mains. The remainder are too remote to make main supply practicable. 16 samples of these waters were taken during the year, 4 of which proved to be satisfactory. The remaining 12 were found to be unsatisfactory and the appropriate action was taken in each case.

Rivers and Streams.—Administration of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts is carried out by the Thames Conservancy Board.

Infectious Diseases, 1951

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT													WARDS													
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years												Byfleet	Chertsey Road	Goldsworth	Horsell North	Horsell South	Knaphill and Brookwood	Maybury and Mount Hermon	Pyrford	St. John's	Sutton and Bridley	Woking Village and Mayford	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over														
Whooping Cough	95	6	14	14	13	13	31	1	–	–	2	–	1	10	6	4	3	2	17	16	4	6	5	22	3	–	
Scarlet Fever	23	–	–	1	–	5	9	2	4	2	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	2	4	2	–	6	–	6	12	–	
Measles	549	8	44	61	66	71	251	27	5	3	12	1	–	76	56	46	28	95	25	72	24	38	19	10	23	–	
Diphtheria	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	
Pneumonia	39	–	–	–	1	1	2	–	–	1	14	9	11	9	7	1	2	5	2	2	1	1	1	8	1	21	
Puerperal Pyrexia	39	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	12	24	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	38	1	–	–	–	38	–	
Acute Poliomyelitis.. ..	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	
Meningococcal Infections ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Erysipelas	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	5	–	5	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	4	–	
Dysentery	44	1	4	5	8	5	1	–	5	3	4	3	5	1	–	–	1	21	8	–	–	–	10	3	20	–	
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid .	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Food Poisoning	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Tuberculosis:—																											
Non-Pulmonary	7	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	2	1	–	1	–	1	–	1	2	–	–	1	–	1	2	2	
Pulmonary	45	–	–	1	–	–	2	2	3	6	18	9	4	5	4	2	3	1	10	3	2	5	1	9	22	3	
Malaria	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Smallpox	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	

Diphtheria Immunisation

1,065 children were immunised during the year as shown in the following table:—

School	Number completely immunised
Maybury C. Primary	159
Goldsworth C. Primary	64
Horsell C. of E.	125
West Byfleet C. Primary	236
	584
Pre-School Age Children	481
	1,065

Diphtheria Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Number of children at 31st December who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time up to that date

Age at 31/12/51, i.e. born in year	Under 1 1951	1 1950	2 1949	3 1948	4 1947	5–9 1942–46	10–14 1937–41	TOTAL Under 15
Number Immunised ..	18	273	432	382	401	2,611	3,313	7,430
Estimated mid-year child population, 1951 ..	Children under five					Children 5–14		10,303
	3,780					6,523		

VACCINATION

424 children under 14 years of age, and 427 adults were vaccinated during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary under these Regulations regarding tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SEC. 172

No action was needed for the compulsory removal to Hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis whose lodging or accommodation prevented the adoption of proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection or who were not taking such precautions.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1951.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0–1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1–5	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
5–15	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15–25	4	5	1	1	—	—	—	—
25–35	8	7	1	—	1	—	—	—
35–45	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45–55	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55–65	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ..	29	16	4	3	2	1	1	1

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ending 31st December was 52, as will be seen from the following table:—

1. Number notified by General Practitioners 13
2. Number notified by Institutions 17
3. Number transferred to Woking 20
4. Number notified after death 2

The following table shows the number of cases notified annually since 1942, and the number of deaths which occurred:—

YEAR	NUMBER ON REGISTER				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1942	90	93	36	41	8	8	2	–
1943	92	97	38	54	10	6	1	4
1944	106	105	43	59	12	8	1	3
1945	109	106	40	48	12	5	1	1
1946	128	114	41	48	9	6	1	1
1947	156	107	41	48	5	6	1	1
1948	157	111	38	46	8	4	–	–
1949	183	109	37	47	7	4	2	–
1950	185	118	37	48	13	5	2	2
1951	193	124	36	44	2	1	1	1

Councillors frequently refer to the incidence of tuberculosis in Woking. The above tabulation gives a clear indication of the situation.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases were notified during the year.

Smallpox.—No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year. Frequently contacts of cases occurring on board ship from the East arrive in this District; each case requires visiting and observation.

Pneumonia.—During the past year 39 cases of Pneumonia were notified, and 21 deaths were recorded.

Enteric Fever.—No cases notified.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—There were no cases notified.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the matter being in the hands of the Surrey County Council.

SCHOOLS

Most of the Schools are of modern construction and all have water-closets drained to the sewers.

There is close co-operation with the School Medical Service of the Surrey County Council. The Regulations with respect to exclusion from school of infectious cases and contacts are strictly observed. The Head Teachers of the schools notify the Medical Officer of Health of absences from school of children suffering from any disease or ailment.

SWIMMING POOLS

The Swimming Pool opened in 1935 in the Woking Park continues in popularity with residents and visitors. Its modern filtration, aeration and chlorination plant provides a complete turnover of the 425,000 gallons it contains every 5 hours, and the water is tested for alkalinity and acidity twice daily. Bacteriological examination of the water was regularly carried out, 28 samples being submitted. These all proved to be satisfactory. During 1951, the number of admissions were 73,563 as against 77,240 for the year previous.

There are no privately-owned Swimming Pools open to the public in the district.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

1st June, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS GRAVES AND GENTLEMEN,

New legislation normally falling to the lot of the Sanitary Inspector to administer included the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, and the Pet Animals Act, 1951. It is a matter of regret that the scope of the former Act has not been extended to include *all* premises where filling materials are used.

Although not affecting Woking, the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1951, shows the determination of the Ministry of Food to secure throughout the country safe milk supplies at the earliest possible moment.

The inspection of rooms where food is prepared for sale together with the routine sampling of milk, ice cream, and water, continued as usual. The results of this work are not always easy to assess but it will be observed earlier in the Report that there was an absence of food poisoning or even symptoms thereof.

Despite shortages in the supply of labour it was possible by the use of overtime employment to maintain the standard of recent years in regard to the Cleansing Services. Those of us directly concerned in this work are becoming appalled at the very heavy costs now involved. Even where extensive reorganisation has been achieved, it is virtually impossible to arrest the ever mounting costs of these services; during 1951 alone the average overall increase in the cost of materials and labour was 20 per cent.

Increases which are now becoming apparent in land values on some of our controlled tipping sites suggest that there might be an ultimate gain, financially and otherwise, in Council ownership of land used for such purposes.

I acknowledge gratefully the continued support of Councillors and the help and assistance of my colleagues.

Yours faithfully,

A. G. DAVIES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION

The following table is here included in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and is a summary of the inspections made during the year.

(*a*) Number and Nature of Inspections for 1951:—

Inspections under Housing Act, 1936	15
Inspections of dwellings under Public Health Acts	1,464
Inspections of dwellings occupied by applicants for Council Houses	106
Enquiries *re* infectious diseases	86
Inspections of verminous premises	22
Investigations *re* overcrowding	3
Visits to slaughterhouses	77
Inspection of dairies	74
,, ,, bakehouses	92
,, ,, moveable dwellings	189
,, ,, factories	265
,, ,, food premises	940
,, ,, school sanitation	22
,, ,, premises where ice cream is manufactured, stored or sold	87
,, ,, drains	62
Inspections concerning smoke nuisance	71
,, ,, Rag Flock Act, 1951	8
,, ,, Shops Act, 1950 (Section 38)	175
,, ,, rodent infestation (by Sanitary Inspectors)	33
Miscellaneous	345
Inspections	4,136
Re-inspections	2,689
	6,825

(*b*) Notices served:—

Number of Preliminary Notices served during the year	331
Number of Statutory Notices served	50
1. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 75	—
2. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93	50
3. Under Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	—

Improvements have been effected by the Sanitary Inspectors as follows:—

Rooms cleansed	93
Wall plaster renewed or repaired	121
Ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	104
Floors repaired	173
Sub-floor space ventilated	9
Doors repaired or provided	18
Window sashes and frames repaired or provided	81
Staircases and stairs renewed or repaired	2
Stoves and grates renewed or repaired	32
Coppers or parts thereof renewed or repaired	7
Sinks renewed or repaired	8
Sills, steps, lintels, arches renewed or repaired	3
Pail and water closets cleansed, provided or repaired	34
Pail closets abolished	1
Houses connected to sewer	4
R.W.P.s provided or repaired	11
Chimney stacks repaired	4
Drainage repaired	38
Yard paving repaired	7
Sanitary dustbins provided	345
Eavesgutters provided or repaired	65
Roofs repaired	111
Pointings renewed	21
Brickwork renewed	1
Wholesome supply of water provided	4
Defects remedied at:	
Dairies and Milkshops	12
Meat and Food premises	106
Factories	19
Bakehouses	23
Samples of milk taken for analysis	124
Samples of water taken for analysis	58
Churn, milk bottle and crockery rinses	11
Samples of ice cream taken for analysis	101
Verminous rooms fumigated, etc.	26
Rooms disinfected after cases of disease	36

HOUSING

I.—*Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.*

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made 1,479

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 15

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 6

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 1,408

II.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 556

III.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.*

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices during 1950:—

(*a*) By owners 15

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners .. —

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 50

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By owners 61

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners .. —

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished by owner without recourse to Demolition Orders —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served of Time and Place at which the question of making a Demolition Order would be considered (Section II (1)) 1

(4) Number of undertakings to carry out works accepted.. 1

(5) Number of houses rendered fit 1

(6) Undertakings cancelled—the works having been carried out 1

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. —

IV.—*Housing Act*, 1936—*Overcrowding.*

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 42

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 72

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 238

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 6

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year through re-housing by the Council 23

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 155

(*d*) Cases in which dwelling-houses became overcrowded after steps were taken for the abatement of overcrowding —

FACTORY INSPECTION

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	17	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	182	248	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
Total	210	265	5	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(*a*) Insufficient ..	4	4	—	4	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	—	7	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	20	20	—	11	—

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Number of sites used for parking 2 or more caravans 3

Number of caravans on each site:

Warren Farm, Pyrford 88
(46 for week-end use only)

Slapleys, Egley Road 7

Brewery Lane, Byfleet 6

Licences issued during the year under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 269 22

Number of licences renewed 19

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

During the year 4 houses, including 2 Council houses, were found to be infested to varying degrees with bed bugs. The method of disinfestation usually employed is spraying with D.D.T. compounds.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Hygiene

The substantial effort of 1950 in relation to the inspection and supervision of food premises has been continued, and the scope of inspection extended to include school canteens and hotel kitchens. The standard of premises in Woking is satisfactory, proprietors are very co-operative and mindful of the need for continual improvement, but employees are not always so diligent as the work demands. The constant changing of jobs may be partly responsible for this, but whatever the cause it is found that employees do not appreciate always the importance of cleanliness in food hygiene.

In May a Food Hygiene Exhibition was staged with success and over 8,000 persons attended. Well arranged stands covering various aspects of the work and a programme of sound films evoked a welcome degree of interest. For the effectiveness of the Exhibition I am indebted to the many exhibitors and also to Messrs. Smith and Canovan, two of the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

Information received concerning the presence of a cigarette end in a loaf of bread resulted in a prosecution under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the imposition of a penalty of £2.

It has not been found necessary to take any legal action under the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk Supply

Nine purveyors hold dealers licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk and 4 for the sale of Sterilised Milk. In addition 3 Supplementary Licences are in force for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 3 for Pasteurised Milk and 2 for Sterilised Milk.

During the year 74 inspections were made of dairies and 12 defects were remedied.

One hundred and twenty-four samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination: 113 Pasteurised Milk, 4 Tuberculin Tested Milk, 2 Accredited Milk, 3 Ordinary Milk and 2 Sterilised Milk. Of the samples taken 4 failed to pass the methylene blue test and one failed the phosphatase test. Five of the samples taken were submitted for biological examination, in each case with a negative result.

In September two summonses were issued against a local dairyman following evidence of the deposit of crates of full milk bottles upon ground forming part of the highway. The cases were instituted as

offences against Section 30 (*a*) of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and a fine of £1 was imposed on each count.

Proceedings instituted under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, concerning foreign matter in a bottle of milk, were dismissed.

The remarks on food hygiene in relation to staff, may well be applied here. Incidents have occurred all too frequently in relation to the supply of milk in dirty bottles to schools and houses.

Ice Cream

There are 96 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and at two of these the product is manufactured on the premises. Both manufacturers produce the complete cold mix only although one has plant and equipment suitable for carrying out heat treatment in accordance with the regulations.

Prepacked ice cream continues to represent the major portion of the total amount retailed in the area and most of this, being supplied by large manufacturers employing the latest modern hygienic methods, is of a high standard of purity. The results of ice cream sampling showed an improvement over the previous year and the reduction in the number of samples placed in Grades III and IV is undoubtedly due to increased care taken by retailers in handing bulk ice cream, in accordance with advice given to them. The contribution of the larger manufacturers in this connection cannot be overlooked.

One hundred and one samples of ice cream were obtained during the year, the results of which were as follows:—

Grade I	68 samples
Grade II	22 samples
Grade III	10 samples
Grade IV	1 sample

Meat and Other Foods

There are 4 licensed private slaughterhouses in the district. These are regularly inspected and all carcases of animals slaughtered locally are examined.

All shops, stores, vehicles and places where food is prepared are visited regularly to ensure that hygienic standards are maintained.

The total amount of unsound food surrendered during the year was 2 tons 10 cwt. 2 qr. 16½ lb., together with 612 eggs, 72 fishcakes and 362 tins of milk.

	T.	C.	Q.	lb.
Tinned Meat	–	13	3	27½
Tinned Fish	–	7	0	16
Tinned Vegetables	–	6	0	0¼
Tinned Fruit	–	8	0	16¼
Tinned Soup	–	1	0	6¼
Meat	–	3	3	19¼
Fish	–	3	0	0
Bacon	–	–	–	25¼
Cheese	–	–	1	24
Preserves	–	1	1	3½
Prunes	–	–	–	25
Cereals	–	1	3	0
Flour	–	–	1	11
Currants	–	–	–	9
Butter	–	–	–	9½
Salad Cream	–	2	3	14¾
Miscellaneous	–	–	–	5
Total	2	10	2	16½

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	16	4	175
Number inspected	—	—	16	4	175
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcases condemned..	—	—	2	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	12·5	75·0	—
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcases condemned..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1·14

Adulteration

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is carried out by the Surrey County Council, who have kindly supplied the following list of samples taken during the year in the Woking district.

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Irregular			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total		
Food :								
Milk	59	—	59	5	—	5	—	—
Cone, ice cream ..	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Confectionery ..	—	1	1	—	1*	1	—	—
Cooking Fat ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cream	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dripping	—	1	1	—	1*	1	—	—
Flour	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Ground Almonds	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Halibut	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Jelly	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Lemon Juice ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meat, cooked and prepared ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pepper	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sausages	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Whisky	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Drugs:								
Cough and cold mixture ..	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Oil of Turpentine	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Vitaminised oils ..	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	73	14	87	5	4	9	—	—

* Labelling offence

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

No action was taken during the year under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Two experienced operators are employed and Morris 8 vans are provided for transport and for the carriage of equipment. Up-to-date methods are used both in the destruction of rats and mice and also for fumigation and disinfestation generally.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	39	11,949	60 (est.)	879	12,927
II. Number of properties inspected as a result (*a*) of notification or (*b*) otherwise ..	(*a*) 36	412	—	491	939
	(*b*) 4	78	—	2	84
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major 1	—	—	—	1
	Minor 28	441	—	413	882
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	11	49	—	80	140
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority ..	40	490	—	493	1,023
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:					
(1) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	46	—	—	—	—

During the year more than 230 complaints were investigated. In addition, contract work was performed by routine on 69 premises for which payment is received and on 14 Council properties. Sewer treatments were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The following tabulation shows the prevalence of rats and mice in the district and the control measures adopted during the year.

Other insect pests for which effective treatments were given included flies, cockroaches, beetles, moths, ants, wasps, bees, and fleas.

CLEANSING SERVICES

The rapid development of a new estate of more than 1,000 premises and the construction of several estates of Council houses provide a major problem of refuse collection. Well-planned housing schemes inevitably mean long "carries" for the dustmen and ample evidence of this difficulty exists in Woking; the next two or three years therefore will require much experimental effort to provide a satisfactory method of maintaining present standards.

Woking is very fortunate in not having to face any complicated problem of refuse disposal. Controlled tipping is the cheapest and most satisfactory method of disposal and there is ample land available for this purpose. The introduction of the muledozers in 1949 provided the opportunity to secure and operate sites convenient for all the large areas of collection and five sites are now in use totalling some 27 acres.

The Council's decision not to operate incentive bonus schemes for wastepaper collections precludes the satisfactory adoption of the method of collection as part of the refuse collection service; a separate collection is made therefore from those premises whose occupiers are willing to save wastepaper. The high prices at present obtainable have encouraged numerous commercial collectors of various types with an obvious detrimental effect upon the Council's collections from trade premises. Nevertheless, more than 205 tons of wastepaper were collected during the year, at a substantial profit.

Cesspool Emptying

The small number of points at which the tipping of the contents of the cesspool machines into sewers is permitted and the gradual elimination of other means of disposal, are reflected in the increased mileages of the cesspool machines. During 1951 28,455 miles were traversed to deal with 3,748,800 gallons of sewage or 6·1 miles per load.

Until recent years a number of useful disposal sites were available on agricultural land, but in almost every case the construction of new houses has resulted in complaints of nuisance from smell with the consequent eventual loss of disposal facilities.